

28th October, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR :

FROM :

SUBJECT : U-2 and A-12/D-21 Records

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Some sixty-plus days ago, I began my reading of old records and photos of the U-2 and A-12 Programs, as well as critiquing Kelly Johnson's papers, analyzing (at CRD's request) lengthy testimony of Allen Dulles before the House Intelligence Sub-Committee in 1960, and dealing with what might be called "The Francillon Matter."

I have made several day-long trips to Building 18 to go through boxes and boxes of old Program records, and plan another day there this week or next. I was somewhat surprised to find less pertinent material than I had expected at . There is abundant operational material, and, aside from old contract files, little of substance on the Program hardware. There are also next to no photos of the A-12 and few engineering drawings. There are zero photos of any of the installed equipment on either the U-2 or the A-12.

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At the same time, Kelly Johnson's statement that there are some 2,000 cubic feet of files at the Skunk Works (presumably including both Programs) continues to intrigue and concern me. Kelly has suggested that I get together with one of the plank owners of the Skunk Works, Fred Cavanagh, who is apparently charged with retention and/or destruction of Program files there. I would very much like to do just that.

I would propose going to Burbank and the Skunk Works, thence to LAC's Palmdale facility where the A-12s are more-or-less stored, over to where "many" of the records and Program impedimenta reside in Air Force storage and custody. If time permitted, I would like a brief stopover in Tucson at Davis-Monthan AFB where the D-21 drone and presumably some of the original U-2s are in open storage. Since I am essentially a bird of passage in this business, I would also suggest that of CRD come with me, since he has been intimate with all former OSA Programs since literally Day One when he was one of my Registry clerks. I estimate that this could be done in approximately five working days at that end, not including travel time. To be done right, I would propose lining the trip up the week of 2nd November, and then going out to be in place in Burbank NLT 9th November. I think it is important to know just what records exist between ourselves and LAC. To highlight what I mean, please see the attached FOIA request handed me yesterday from AF/RDPJ (Colonel Raymond) with the usual crazy deadline of two days hence.

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As of tomorrow morning, I will have worked 24 days out of a total of 36 in my contractual allocation for calendar year 1981. Thus, the West Coast trip would use five more, still leaving a cushion to fielding ground balls as they arrive.

I am of the view that FOIA inquiries will continue to roll in, especially after the publication of Kelly's article in HORIZONS, the LAC technical bulletin. There are also probably more [] lurking in the bullrushes. You may find it necessary to have someone on call to separate T from F for longer than had been expected.

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Meanwhile, I would ask your concurrence in the proposed West Coast trip for [] and myself.

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CONCUR:

[]

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DATE: